

Message

From: Fish, Tonya [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=0D43E4C42129437BA34402A1F7CD205A-FISH, TANYA]
Sent: 2/25/2021 11:33:06 PM
To: Kelly, Myla [MKelly2@mt.gov]; Sullivan, Lauren [Lauren.Sullivan@mt.gov]
Subject: EPA Approval of MT Se submission
Attachments: MT Lake Koocanusa and Kootenai River Se EPA Action Letter signed.pdf

Importance: High

Congratulations on all of your hard work!

Tonya

EPA DESK STATEMENT

Consistent with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean Water Act roles and responsibilities, the agency has evaluated and approved the State of Montana's revised selenium water quality standards for Lake Koocanusa and the Kootenai River in northwest Montana. EPA's action is based on a thorough technical review of the State's submission and a determination that the adopted standards are based on sound science and consistent with the Clean Water Act.

Montana's revised standards will strengthen ongoing efforts to address selenium concerns in surface waters, fish and aquatic life within the Kootenai River watershed. Montana's site-specific water column standard for Lake Koocanusa is consistent with EPA-recommended approaches for developing site-specific selenium standards. The State's fish tissue standards for Lake Koocanusa, as well as the fish tissue and water column standards for the Kootenai River, are the same as current EPA-recommended standards for selenium. Montana's standards for the Kootenai River are also the same as those adopted for the river in the State of Idaho.

EPA continues to support the evaluation and management of water quality concerns in Montana in partnership with the State, tribes, and other federal agencies, including ongoing efforts to investigate and address selenium impacts in the Lake Koocanusa/Kootenai watershed.